

3. (Amended) A slidable member as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the surface section of said hard carbon-based film contains at least one of nitrogen and oxygen in an amount ranging from 4 to 20 at%.

4. (Amended) A slidable member as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said hard carbon-based film has a surface roughness lower than 0.1 μm .

5. (Amended) A slidable member as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said hard carbon-based film has a hardness Hv higher than 1000.

6. (Amended) A slidable member as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said hard carbon-based film has a thickness ranging from 1 to 10 μm , wherein said hard carbon-based film has a coefficient of friction of not higher than 0.07 in a condition where said hard carbon-based film is dipped in a lubricating oil.

7. (Amended) A slidable member as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said substrate is formed of a material selected from the group consisting of silicon nitride and steel.

8. (Amended) A slidable member as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said hard carbon-based film is formed of a material selected from the group consisting of diamond polycrystal, amorphous carbon, and diamond like carbon.

10. (Amended) A slidable member used in contact with lubricating oil, comprising:

a substrate; and

a hard carbon-based film coated on a surface of said substrate, said hard carbon-based film having a surface section which contains hydrogen in an amount of not more than 10 at%.

11. (Amended) A slidable member as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said hard carbon-based film is formed by one of a carbon ion beam process, a thermal chemical vapor deposition process, an ion plating process, and a sputtering process.